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United States Patent [19][11] **Patent Number:** **5,546,580****Seliger et al.**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Aug. 13, 1996**

[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COORDINATING CONCURRENT UPDATES TO A MEDICAL INFORMATION DATABASE**

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[52] U.S. Cl. **395/600**

[58] Field of Search 395/600, 425, 395/575; 364/413

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method for coordinating updates to a medical database in a medical information system permits concurrent charting from different workstations and medical instruments. A first data value for a record is entered at a first workstation and a second data value for the record is entered at a second workstation without locking either workstation during data entry. The new data values are stored in the medical database after completion of data entry at each workstation, and a correction history is recorded. The correction history contains information as to the update of the record with the first data value and the second data value. The record is updated with the first and second data values without aborting user activities or notifying a user that an update conflict has occurred. After the new data values are stored in the medical database, all workstations containing a copy of the record are updated to reflect the current state of the record.

18 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets

